

THE DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY RESPONDING TO HUNGER IN TIME OF THE PANDEMIC IN CENTRAL AMERICA

As the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, we have been present alongside the poor in Central America since 1862. In the six countries, we have experienced moments of great political crises such as the Liberal Revolution in 1871 in Guatemala, military dictatorships, civil wars in Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala since 1979, and the invasion in Panama in 1989. We have assisted in justice and mercy in response to natural disasters such as hurricanes and tropical storms in Honduras, El Salvador and Costa Rica, earthquakes like 1976 in Guatemala, 1972 in Nicaragua and 2001 in El Salvador. For almost 160 years, we have been serving the poor deprived of rural land, the marginalized, the sick, the elderly, and abandoned children, migrants and homeless people with human and social services like education, health, nutritional recovery and evangelization. The year 2020 has revealed our greatest challenge: THE PANDEMIC has taken us by surprise. Our peoples were already victims of guerrilla wars, political and partisan corruption, deficiencies in public health and development services, victims of unemployment, hunger, citizen insecurity, organized crime and migrant caravans seeking a non-existent dream, fleeing the misery of their countries to the north. Since March, they are now also victims of COVID 19 with its confinement, disease, and death package. In Guatemala alone the number of infections has exceeded fifty thousand and we have not reached the peak of the curve yet. The consequences of the restrictions and existing poverty are hunger, so that groups of families go out on the roads with white flags requesting food. We, the Daughters of Charity, have given in solidarity by offering food in our houses, going out to the marginalized and rural areas bringing food, promoting the cultivation of pulses and delivering quick lunches in our dining rooms like we had done before the pandemic. As Jesus Christ already exhorted us in the Gospel: GIVE THEM YOU TO EAT (Mt 14:16).





El amor de Cristo



NOS URGE



A servir con...



ALEGRIA



DISPONIBILIDAD



PRONTITUD



